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Editor

No Light From This Congress

CONGRESS went into session again on Monday last. It will expire of limitation on the fourth of March. Less than three weeks, including the holidays, fourteen days this month and about forty-five after the holidays. We do not expect much from it. Nearly all the stalwarts are serving their closing term, and most of them have a feeling that their labors in the past have not been appreciated. If most of the new men are commanding figures, they have not as yet raised to their full stature. The impression that the majority are linked with the trusts has become fixed upon the country. We do not believe a word of it. We believe seven out of every ten of the members are honest, honorable and patriotic men, seven out of ten of the members of both parties. But we believe that this general impression was the underlying cause of the revulsion seen at the polls in November last.

In our thought there will be no improvement when the majority in the house changes and the majority in the senate is greatly reduced.

The reason for that conclusion is that not from any man in either party has a note been sounded that indicates a comprehension of what the real trouble is, or from whence the cure must come. We reject the cry that the trusts own and control congress or any considerable portion of it.

But it is natural for the ordinary man when he becomes very wealthy, no matter how he obtained his wealth, to think that there was no accident about it; that the reason he obtained his wealth was because of his superior brain, and that of right, his opinion is of more value than that of the ordinary man, and that he should be listened to and his superiority acknowledged. And there are always sycophants enough to confirm his opinion.

Well, the bankers of the country did not make a brilliant showing during the great war, but they did succeed in having established a so-called financial system, founded on the debt of the nation and calculated to make a great portion of that debt perpetual and to keep the people paying the interest upon it forever. It is a common theory among gamblers that if a man plays at faro and wins as much as he loses, the percentage of the game will eventually make a pauper of him.

Well, when the people began to pay from 6.20 to 7.40 per cent interest on more than 2,000 mil-

lions of interest-bearing war indebtedness, the day of their semi-slavery began. But not content with that, the bankers and bondholders induced the comptroller of the currency and two or three senators and representatives to cause, by a sneak, the demonetization of silver money; this they knew would eventuate in reducing the value of property 50 per cent and give to every \$1,000 which they might collect in interest double the purchasing power which it then had. When silver in terms of gold began to fall in value and there was a clamor to have it given back its old recognition, then these men, taking advantage of their own money, sneeringly asked: "Would you pay your debts in lightweight dollars?"

When the last great rally to have justice done, in 1896, came, these same interest gatherers debauched the whole north by the money they gave to Mark Hanna to corrupt. Since then that money power has controlled legislation. But the point is reached at last when even that power does not know what to do. They see our exports to half the world shut off; they see a depression everywhere, and they are worried. Congress has been indirectly under their domination ever since Mr. Cleveland's last inauguration; it has looked to them for sound financial advice, for in all the past these financial magnates have moved only in the narrow circle of their own interests, and they can no more look up and grasp a great national question than a Chinese girl, foot-banded from babyhood, can leap and walk.

The trouble that confronts congress and the country is the want of an enlightened financial system. What congressmen will proclaim the truth and point out the remedy? We look for little effective work at the present session.

Then And Now

THE foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, but, the son of man hath not where to lay his head." We are told that a certain creed as taught here in Utah is but the restoration of the creed that the Master taught and that one here, just a common man, stands here the authorized representative of the Master. Good saints, we would not doubt your sincerity, but would ask you why you doubt ours. When we cannot quite swallow what you so easily swallow and assimilate. We read the new testament and try to reconcile the ways and teachings of the Master with the ways and teachings of the man whom you tell us is His representative on earth. Can you wonder if we do not succeed? We ask you, as we have a thousand times before, to study this thing which you call your religion, analyze the system in any way you please, and then explain to us: Suppose the system had not been founded on love for man and love of God, but that a crafty leader had intended it as merely a huge commercial and political machine; through men's superstitious fears, to cause the money to work for the few, to subject their minds through superstitious fear to the minds of a few chiefs; in what way could the present system be improved upon? You are annually assessed 10 per cent of all your earnings, that is all right if you believe that is your duty, though bankers are satisfied if they can make their gold earn even 6 per cent, but does the 10 per cent secure your release from further assessment? Suppose you are a farmer and have 500 bushels

of grain, and 200 tons of hay. the tithing fund 50 bushels of grain and two tons of hay. But suppose you have ten poor cattle, fifty poor sheep, twenty turkeys and 100 chickens and you fatten them on the hay and grain you have left, do you not have likewise to surrender one steer, five sheep, two turkeys and ten chickens? Do you find any precedent for that in the new testament? Remember that, "The foxes have holes, the birds of the air have their nests, but the son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Again, suppose one hundred of you live a little out of town and want a church. You have to assess yourselves for it, do you not? But when the priests go down and dedicate it for you, what else happens? You have to deed it to the parent church, do you not. That is in addition to your tithe paying. If it cost \$5,000 and you shared equally, you are out \$50 each, are you not?

Then suppose that a month later it is decided to send additional colonists to Alberta or Chihuahua, and ten of your hundred are set apart for that purpose. What of the \$500 that the ten put in the church? Is there any refunding? Hardly. Now tell us, please, or ask all your high priests, all of them combined, including the Master's representative, where any parallel to that can be found in the teachings of Jesus Christ?

Again suppose in the early days of the primitive church, the disciples, out of the tithing fund that had been collected from the people, had built a sugar factory down on the rich plain between Jerusalem and Joppa, had made the Master president of the company, and though he had not put up a cent, had given him 20 per cent of the capital stock; that the business had paid wonderfully and from the profits more factories had been erected, that then after ten years it had been discovered that the corporation had entered into a combine with some unregenerate thieving Gentiles in Damascus and, though the freight by camel, was two cents per pound between Jerusalem and Damascus, the disciples, with the Master's full approval were charging the saints in Jerusalem 6 1/4 pennies per pound for sugar, while at the same time they were, after paying the freight, selling the same sugar to the ungodly Gentiles of Damascus for 3 1/4 cents per pound; do you believe that the religion of Jesus Christ would have lasted and have won more and more adherents for 1,900 years? Do you believe that the record would have come down to us as it has, or would it not have read something like this.

"The foxes have had to hunt their holes, and the birds of the air have had to hide their nests, or the son of Hyrum would long ago have gobbled both the holes and the nests, and claimed them as his right, for Christ's sake."

Driving The Last Spike Picture

THE New York Times publishes what it calls "The true story of the driving of the last spike," when the Union Pacific railroad met the Central Pacific at Promontory; the rails were connected and the last spike driven. It also publishes a newspaper copy of Thomas Hill's picture of the scene and Mr. Hill's story of his troubles in painting the picture and mutilating it after it was first painted, by order of Leland Stanford. The story is not at all complimentary to Governor Stanford, but we suspect that it is true, for it corresponds with more than one act of his life.